

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00
/080 W

-----210700Z 123863 /16

R 210253Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5968

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF MY

SUBJ: UNHCR CONCERNS REGARDING ACTIONS OF WORLD CONFERENCE ON
RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP)

REF: JAKARTA 0533

1. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR, CALLED ON CHARGE
JANUARY 20 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF
WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP). HE DESCRIBED
HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR NEWSOM IN JAKARTA
(REFTEL) AND SAID THAT SINCE THAT CONVERSATION THE
"ROLAND" (FORMERLY A WW II MINE SWEEPER) HAD PICKED UP
26 REFUGEES AT MERSING, JOHORE, AND 66 OTHERS AT KOTA BAHRU.
HE HAD RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMANT,
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CAPTAIN OF THE "ROLAND" TOLD THE GOM NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL (NSC) REPRESENTATIVE IN KOTA BAHRU THAT "HE
WAS HEADING FOR THE U.S.". SAMPATKUMAR BELIEVES THAT
MEANS VESSEL HEADED FOR GUAM.

3. SAMPATKUMAR DEPLORED LATEST
WCRP ACTIONS IN MUCH THE SAME LANGUAGE HE USED

WITH AMBASSADOR NEWSOM. HE BELIEVES IT WILL HAVE A DAMAGING EFFECT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM (WHICH HE CONTENDS IS BEING ACCEPTED DE FACTO BY GOM) AND THAT IT RUNS COUNTER TO EFFORTS TO INTERNATIONALIZE REFUGEE PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO HIM, WEST GERMANY, CANADA AND FRANCE ALL HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ACCEPTING REFUGEES FROM AMONG THOSE AT KOTA BAHRU; THIS DEVELOPMENT MAY REINFORCE FAMILIAR TENDENCY TO SAY "LET AMERICANS HANDLE IT".

4. SAMPATKUMAR ADDED THAT RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY WCRP AT ITS SINGAPORE MEETING IN EARLY DECEMBER CALLED FOR CHARTERING A SHIP TO PICK UP REFUGEES "DRIFTING IN SMALL BOATS ON THE CHINA SEA" AND THAT THE UNHCR WOULD BE "CONSULTED AT EVERY STEP". AS IT HAS TURNED OUT, THE UNHCR HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED AND WCRP HAS "RESCUED" REFUGEES ALREADY LANDED RATHER THAN REFUGEES ADRIFT.

5. SAMPATKUMAR SEEMED TO WISH TO ELICIT A STRONG STATEMENT THAT THE US WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE REFUGEES IF THEY GOT TO ITS TERRITORY. CHARGE CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH THE ACTIONS OF THE WCRP COULD BE DAMAGING, HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE USG WOULD DO IF THE "ROLAND" ACTUALLY GOT TO US TERRITORY WITH 92 REFUGEES ON BOARD. CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT UNHCR MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT WCRP IN SINGAPORE DIRECTLY IN EFFORT TO RESTRAIN IT FROM TAKING ACTIONS IT BELIEVED DAMAGING. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON AND SOLICIT GUIDANCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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